

Comments on N2021-1
May 24, 2021

To the Postal Regulatory Commission:

I am writing in opposition to the proposed 10 year plan concerning the Postal System that would, among other things, further slowdown the mail. I am not an employee nor do I know anyone who is an employee of the Postal Service. However I am an American citizen who understands the value of the USPS. I would have never believed that I would have to write in defense of something I have taken for granted my entire life.

I know that the pandemic certainly harmed the post office due to staff shortages from illness and higher demand, but that was not the only reason for slower service during that time. Postmaster DeJoy implemented the elimination and destruction of sorting machines, and sent out empty trucks to adhere to a rigid schedule rather than adapt to mail timing needs. The amount of waste that happened is well-documented. Serious consequences of delayed mail delivery (or missing mail) for the elderly, disabled or those who live in rural areas ensued.

Factoring in the human element in making changes to the post office was and is missing. Clearly the way the system operates is quite complex and the Postmaster still does not seem to understand that. He is planning further changes that will create even more slowdown and reduced services. Part of the plan involves more privatization of the post office. There are many reasons to be concerned about this. The postal system should remain a public good and not under corporate control.

Many citizens realized during the pandemic that they may have been taking the services of the post office for granted. We need it for everything from medications, letters/packages and legally voting by mail when something like a pandemic makes it unsafe to go to the polls. Instead of quick fixes that damage the mission of the post office, the consequences of any changes need to be taken into consideration. Extensive input from postal workers, managers and the public should be sought to create any reforms in efficiency or cost-saving. As it stands I am against the proposed 10 year plan.

Sincerely,
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